Story 15: Sono-san!!

SHE IS NOT DEAD.
.....!?
..HOW EVER
SHE IS NOT ALIVE

PLEASE CALM DOWN
I DO NOT THINK THAT IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM
!!

OH, PRINCESS..
JUST WHEN I WAS GONE
AH, BUT...
I CANT BELIEVE THIS HAPPENED
あー!!
あ!!
あ!!

MORE IMPORTANTLY, LET'S GET BACK AT THE PEOPLE WHO DID THIS TO HER!!
LET'S GO,
RIGHT NOW!

I AM COMFORTING YOU BECAUSE IT ISN'T SOMETHING YOU COULD HAVE CHANGED
……

IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF MY SADNESS AND ANGER
W...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?!
AND WHAT'S WITH THE SPARKLING BACKGROUND?!!
TRY AND LIE A LITTLE BETTER AT LEAST!!

HEY, KAKITSUBATA
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SHIRAYUKI, ISN'T URGENT THEN?

HEY NOW.. CALM DOWN
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE!!

SHE ONLY HAD HER SOUL STOLEN BY A MAGICAL TECHNIQUE, SO I BELIEVE IT IS ALRIGHT.
THAT WOMAN NAMED LUCILLE PROBABLY SEALED IT INSIDE OF THAT ROCK SHE WAS CARRYING.

AH..
YES

TO SOLSHIEL?
THEREFORE, ALL WE NEED TO DO IS BRING IT BACK, AND SHE WILL...
?
MIDORI
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT..?
THE HOUSE OF SOLSHIEL ARE THE ONE'S TARGETING SHIRAYUKI, AREN'T THEY?
...THIS WAS THEIR DOING, RIGHT?

WE COULDN'T EVEN HIDE IT FROM THEM...?!!
..DAMN IT!
THEN WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THAT HAPPENING TO AZAMI!
..MOST LIKELY
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
!
.....

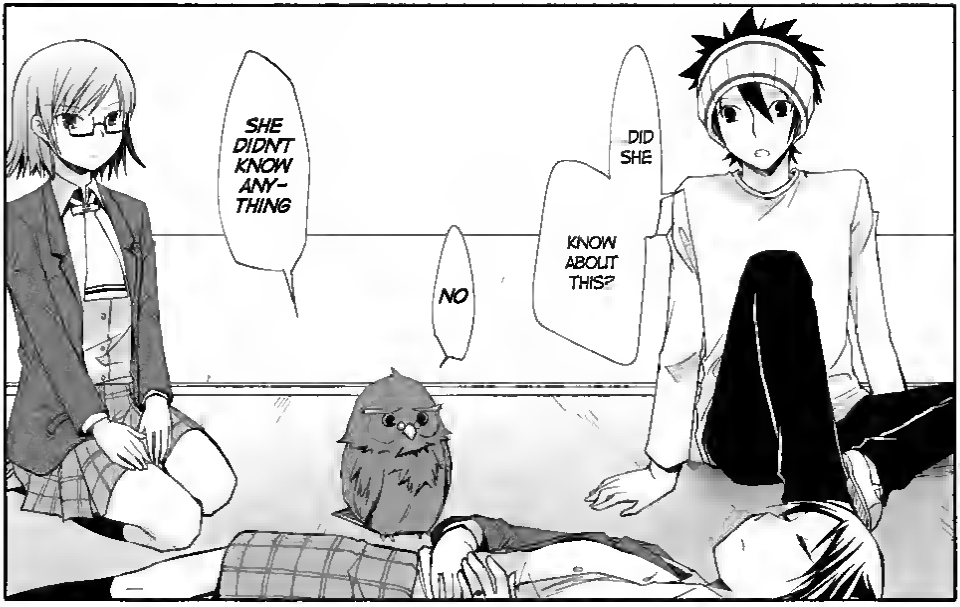
IN THE COUNTRY WE LIVE IN, THERE IS A LEGEND.
THE PERSON BEARING THE MARK OF AN APPLE ON THEIR CHEST, WHO ACTS AS A BRIDGE TO THE JEWEL CALLED THE GOLDEN APPLE
IF ONE WERE TO CONSUME
IT IS SAID ONE COULD OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE

AND

ON THE PRINCESS'S CHEST, SHE HAS
...THAT MARK

ETERNAL LIFE..??

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!!
ANYWAY, IT'S MERELY A FAIRYTALE.
THAT WON'T HAPPEN
SHIRAYUKI-SAN IS GOING TO BE EATEN!?
EH!?
HM?
MEAN-ING...?
SO, SHE CAME HERE
TO FLEE FROM THEM?
YES
I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS REAL.
BUT A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IT WERE TARGET-ING THE PRINCESS.


SHE DIDN'T KNOW ANY-THING
NO
DID SHE KNOW ABOUT THIS?

HER PERSONALITY ISN'T ONE THAT WOULD ALLOW HER TO OBEDI-ENTLY LET HERSELF BE PROTECTED
...RIGHT?

WOULDN'T THAT HURT HER A LITTLE...?

AZAMI TOLD ME EVERYTHING...
MIDORI..

I TRIED TO SPREAD INFORMATION AND CONFUSION HOWEVER
THEY ARRIVED HERE QUICKLY ANYWAY
SO..
AT THIS TIME, I WANT TO ELIMINATE THIS OPTION FOR THEM
EVEN IF
IT'S IN EXCHANGE FOR MY LIFE
BUT

SO... THAT'S WHAT HAPP-ENED...

WITH A RESULT LIKE THIS
AZAMI-SAN MUST BE TURNING IN HER GRAVE...

ふぅ...

I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO THINK I'M HOPING FOR THIS OR ANYTHING, BUT
...YEAH
...LUCILLE SAID SHE WOULD COME AGAIN, HUH ..
.....
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT OBJECTIVELY, WE SHOULD GO RETRIEVE IT.
HER SAYING "I'LL COME BACK"
IS A WAY OF SAYING "I'LL COME TO GET HER BODY," WASN'T IT?
BUT, HOW CAN WE GO THERE...?
EVEN IF WE WAIT, I DO NOT THINK SHE WILL COME BACK WITH THE SOUL IN HAND

WHAT ABOUT IF WE ASK LITSUGI-SAN?
ARE WE ALSO CAPABLE OF GOING THERE?
NO...
THAT IS DIFF-ICULT..
I THINK THAT HE SAID THAT IT CAN TRANSPORT YOU ANY-WHERE
THAT DOOR

BEFORE YOU GO, WAIT A SEC
WAIT, WAIT, SHINKO-CHAN!!
WOAH!
I... I SEE. CERTAINLY, WITH THAT POWER...
THEN, LET'S DO IT NOW
LEAVING SHIRAYUKI-SAN LIKE THIS IS A BAD IDEA!
...EH!?
ALRIGHT THEN, WITH THAT!
THEN
KAZE-KUN SHOULD CARRY HER ON HIS SHOULDERS
Yeah
THAT'S RIGHT.

TH...THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT... AND
HEY?!
WHAT?
YOU'RE HER FIANCE, AREN'T YOU?
YOU... YOU SAY IT LIKE IT'S EASY
DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF MAGIC THAT CAN MAKE COMATOSE PEOPLE MOVE?
HOW IS THIS ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS?
..IF SHE CAN MOVE, THERE'S NO PROBLEM ..?
KAKITSUBATA-SAN, AS AN EMERGENCY PROCEDURE, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO PUT SOMEONE ELSE'S SOUL IN HER BOYD?
I.. I THINK IT'S POSSIBLE
YOU THINK THERE'S SUCH A SIMPLE SOLU-TION?
LISTEN WHEN PEOPLE ARE TALKING TO YOU !!

THEN IS SONO-SAN
ALLOWED?

SONO...
SAN?

UP... WE GO
HUH?
ALRIGHT, IS THIS GOOD?
UGH
THE STAIRS ARE TOUGH...
I KNOW SONO-SAN IS VERY BUSY.
BUT WOULD SHE DO US THE FAVOR OF COMING INTO SHIRAYUKI-SAN'S BODY FOR A LITTLE WHILE?

AH
UH, HOW ABOUT IF YOU LIE DOWN LIKE SHIRAYUKI-SAN, AS THOUGH YOU WERE ON TOP OF HER...?
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING, SO I DON'T REALLY GET IT...
HMM
LIKE THAT, LIKE THAT
ON HER BACK
YEAH, IT'S OKAY
PLEASE DON'T HESITATE.
...YEAH,
THAT'S RIGHT
HH
HH

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WOAH!
HUH?!
OH
THANK YOU!
SONO-SAN
W...
W...
WOAH..!

LIKE THIS, EVERYONE ELSE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU
I CAN TOUCH YOU
AMAZING
SHI... SHINKO-CHAN, SHINKO-CHAN
I...

EVERY-ONE...!
AH!!!

わたあわわっ
AH!
UM...UM! I'M SORRY, I'M...
わた
NICE TO MEET YOU!... RIGHT?
UH!
UM...!

MY NAME IS SONOMURA KARIN
I... I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS...!!

SHE CAME BACK WITH THAT FACE...?!!
NICE TO MEET YOU..

THEN, LET'S GO?
YEAH...

THE DOOR WHICH CAN
GO
ANYWHERE!!
I THOUGHT IT WAS COOL SO I GAVE IT A TRY
どーん
...WHAT'S WITH THAT

HEH, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WERE TREMBLING
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, ODAMAKI?!!
YOU SCARED ME!!

!!?
ぺた
ぺた

IT'S FINE, Y'KNOW?
なでなで
..SHUSH

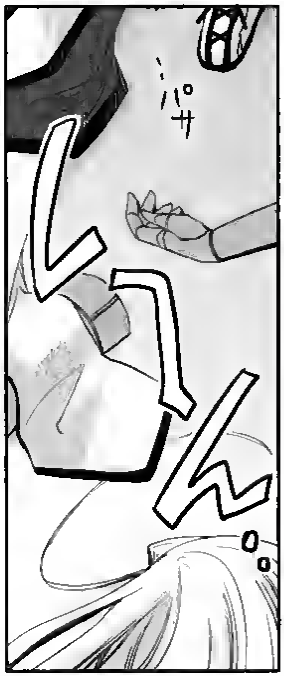
WE'LL RESCUE THE PRINCESS IN A SUPER COOL WAY

LITSUGI-SAN?
WE CAME TO PLAY—
IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
STUPID ME

OH
ARE YOU OVER HERE?
NOT TO PLAY, IT'S NOT A GAME
LONG TIME NO SEE~
HEY
TODAY
UTSUGI-SAN WAS HERE!

AHH?!
WAH!?
SHINO-CHAN!?

NO, NO, NO...!!
EEEE
SORRY, I KILLED HIM...
Who knows what I'll do to you



HA HA HA..!
OH, SHINKO -CHAN, IT'S BEEN A WHILE
UTSUGI -SAN!
とた
YOU SURPRISED US!
たた
くっ
IT'S GREAT
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY AMUSING
いちゃ(?)
いちゃ(?)
STOP IT, YOU TWO!
I TOLD YOU TO COME BY ANYTIME, DIDN'T I?
BUT SINCE THEN YOU HAVEN'T EVEN COME TO SEE ME ONCE. HOW CRUEL.
AH— IT'S MIDORI'S FAULT

SO
WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL HERE?
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED?
EXCUSE ME
WE WANT TO GO TO THE COUNTRY SHIRAYUKI-SAN IS FROM, APFEL
CAN YOU BRING US ALL THERE WITH YOUR POWER, LITSUGI-SAN?

I CAN DO IT
REALLY?
THEN, PLEASE!
YES!

NO WAY